

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

54

May 4, 2004

FROM: JUNE GRIFFITH-COLLISON, Acting Director
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO THE TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE QUALITY THROUGH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

RECOMMENDATION: Ratify the actions of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in executing a grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for funding to expand the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center's Patient Care System in the amount of \$1,615,897 for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will ratify the actions of the Chairman related to submission of a grant application for improving healthcare quality through information technology funding.

If awarded, the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (Medical Center) intends to use the grant to expand its Patient Care System (PCS). The PCS will serve the Medical Center, Family Health Centers and the communities they serve by orchestrating patient care to bring together clinical, financial, therapeutic and diagnostic information in a centralized location.

The purpose of the PCS is to provide an improved systematic approach to patient care. This will be accomplished by an integrated and modern process that focuses on how to securely transport the flow of patient information and resources throughout the health continuum in the most logical, strategic and efficient way possible. Features of the system include patient bedside charting, custom laboratory orders/results and prescription writing. If the grant is received, 20% of the grant funding monies will be used to purchase PCS software modules. Additional monies will be used to support the system, including employee education and training and future planning. No additional staff will be required.

The application was due to DHHS no later than April 22, 2004. The Medical Center received notice of the final application guidance in February 2004 and has since worked diligently to complete the grant application. Due to the complexity of the grant application, the Medical Center was unable to get the item to the Board of Supervisors in time to meet the application deadline. Accordingly, the item is being presented for ratification at this time. Should this application be funded, the Medical Center will return to the Board to accept and budget any funding awarded.

Page 1 of 2

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

54

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May 4, 2004
Page 2 of 2

54

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles J. Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5433) on April 19, 2004, and County Administrative Office (Bea Valdez, Administrative Analyst, 388-0211) on April 22, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This item is an application only and imposes no local County costs. The grant requires a match contribution of \$1,615,897, which can be either cash or in-kind. The in-kind match will be met through personnel time, supplies, and software maintenance costs already included in the Medical Center's 2004-05 proposed budget and funded by operations.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval since this application imposes no local County costs.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: June Griffith-Collison, Acting Director, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, 580-6160

54